



HAVA NEWS

A special informational bulletin for Michigan election officials on the implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002

Michigan Department of State - Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State

Special Edition

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Breaking News on Voting System Vendor Certification

Today, April 20, 2004, the State Administrative Board met to approve certification of two voting system vendors. After extensive negotiation with all vendors involved, two met all mandatory State requirements. Diebold Election Systems, Inc., and Election Systems & Software (ES & S) are now certified to sell election systems in Michigan in 2004. An additional vendor, Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc., was conditionally certified. Sequoia will not be permitted to sell election systems until an Independent Testing Authority (ITA) certifies their Election Management System (EMS) software. That certification will not take place before the deadline for purchasing equipment for use in 2004 elections. The Bureau of Elections will issue a notice if and when Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc. becomes a fully qualified vendor.

Within the next few days, the Bureau of Elections will send vendor selection information to those counties that are currently scheduled to purchase new election equipment in 2004. These selection forms must be returned to the Bureau of Elections by Friday, April 30, 2004. In the coming weeks, similar packets will be sent to the counties receiving systems in 2005. Detailed information on each vendor's system, prices, and key differences will also be available in the near future on the Department of State HAVA website. We will notify you as soon as this information becomes available.

For those counties that are purchasing equipment in 2004, Grant Applications are also due back on Friday, April 23, 2004. As always, your assistance is requested in ensuring that the appropriate jurisdictions in your county also return their Grant Applications by this date.

Watch for additional important information regarding the purchase of election systems in the coming days.